

Rail Safety Week Toolkit

Purpose:

This toolkit provides ready-to-use messaging, creative assets, and guidance to help promote rail safety during Rail Safety Week. As more people travel by bike, transit and other vehicles, raising awareness of safe behaviours near railways helps keep everyone safe.

Key Messages:

Metrolinx is partnering with Operation Lifesaver for Rail Safety Week to share important safety reminders and promote safe behaviours around rail infrastructure. Safety starts with us all.

- Whether it's ignoring signs and signals at a rail crossing, crossing tracks in undesignated areas, entering restricted spaces, or walking along tracks, it's never worth the risk. These preventable incidents reinforce the importance of making safe choices and following simple safety practices that help keep everyone safe.
- During Rail Safety Week, from September 21 to 27, Metrolinx is partnering with community organizations and safety agencies to host educational events and activations across GTHA. Community members and customers will have the opportunity to connect with safety experts, community partners and Metrolinx teams to learn more about rail safety in your community.
- Families are invited to visit the Kids Safety Village of Durham Region on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., for a family-friendly event featuring hands-on rail safety demonstrations and educational activities. Children can practice safe traffic and rail crossing habits while riding bicycles through the village. Residents can connect with Metrolinx safety experts, community engagement teams, and community partners.
- Head to [this press room story](#) for more information on the week's events.

Cyclists: When on your bike or scooter, always stop before the rail tracks once to look for red flashing lights, ringing bells or lowering gates. It means a train is quickly approaching.

- Slow down, dismount from your bike and pay close attention to all signs and signals.
- Avoid distractions such as headphones or mobile phones so you can hear trains coming from either direction.
- Do not ride bicycles or e-bikes inside GO stations, on concourses, or on train platforms; always walk or carry them.
- When travelling with a bike or e-bike on the GO network, ensure you are compliant with the bike and e-bike policy. All e-bike batteries must meet standard UL or CE

requirements. [Find out more about travelling with your bike on GO trains and buses here.](#)

- Bicycles are not allowed on weekday trains arriving at Union Station from 6:30am to 9:30am or departing from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Pedestrians: When crossing rail tracks, watch and listen for any signs of a train approaching. When the red lights start flashing, the bells begin to signal and the barriers start to come down, it means a train is quickly approaching.

- Trains are extremely quiet, so you may not always hear them before they are too close. Avoid distractions like cell phones and headphones when approaching a rail crossing.
- Never rush to cross ahead of a train. Trains move quickly, and it's not worth the risk of putting yourself in danger.
- Trespassing onto active train tracks is illegal and dangerous. Only cross tracks at designated crossings, which are specifically designed to keep you safe.

Drivers: Our region has grown a lot over the past few years, and more people are taking public transit, private vehicles and cycling to get to work, school and events. This means that roadways near rail crossings are busier during peak hours. Prioritizing safety, being patient and planning ahead ensures that everyone has a safe journey.

- At rail crossings, stop at least 5 metres from the nearest rail as soon as the red lights begin flashing, even if the gates have not fully lowered.
- Always wait for the lights to stop flashing and the gates are up to cross at a rail crossing.
- In case of emergency situations, including your car stalling or getting stuck on the tracks, immediately get everyone out of the vehicle and move far away from the rail crossing.
- Call the emergency number posted on the blue-and-white Emergency Notification Sign (ENS) or 9-1-1 to report a vehicle on the tracks.

Content:

Sample Newsletter Sample:

Rail Safety Week (September 21 to 27) is a reminder that safety starts with us all. Whether it's ignoring signs and signals at a rail crossing, crossing tracks in undesignated areas, entering restricted spaces, or walking along tracks, it's never worth the risk. These preventable incidents reinforce the importance of making safe choices and following simple safety practices that help keep everyone safe. Take part in Metrolinx-led family-friendly community events such as the Durham Kids Safety Village on September 26. Learn more [here](#).

Sample social posts:

Sample post 1: Rail Crossing Safety

Creative:

Rail safety starts with us all.

When you're at a rail crossing,

 Stop when red lights flash.

 Wait until the gates are fully raised.

 Trains can approach from either direction.

Caption:

Rail crossings are busier than ever as more people travel across our region each day. During Rail Safety Week, take a moment to remember these simple safety reminders.

Want to learn more about rail safety at a family-friendly event? Join Metrolinx and community partners at Kids Safety Village of Durham Region on September 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.! Kids can practice safe traffic and crossing behaviours while riding bicycles through the village. Head to metrolinx.com for more information!

Social creative assets attached: Safety Village Tour creative

Sample post 2: Rail Safety

Creative:

 Rail safety starts with us all.

✓ Stand behind the yellow line.

 Spread out along the platform.

 Never trespass on train tracks.

Caption:

Rail safety starts with us all. Staying alert around tracks and platforms and adhering to the yellow line safety, even if no trains are present, helps protect you and those around you. During Rail Safety Week, take a moment to remember these simple safety reminders.

Want to learn more about rail safety? Join Metrolinx and community partners at Kids Safety Village of Durham Region on September 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to learn more about rail safety! Kids can practice safe traffic and crossing behaviours while riding bicycles through the village. Head to metrolinx.com for more information!

Use for social, newsletters, event screens, or app links:

- **Horizontal (YouTube):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWGN8C-Z4gM>

- **Vertical (YouTube Shorts):**

<https://youtube.com/shorts/OHPTzfy0BVE?feature=share>

Web Resource

- **Safety at Metrolinx:** <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/about-us/safety>
- **Press Room story:** <https://www.metrolinx.com/en/news/join-us-for-rail-safety-week-2026>